

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 RSC-01

OIC-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 IOE-00 AID-20 EB-11

OMB-01 TRSE-00 COME-00 RSR-01 /192 W  
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P R 181750Z JUL 73

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 566

INFO USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 GENEVA 3720

E.O.11652 NA

TAGS UN ECOSOC

SUBJ 55TH ECOSOC: ITEM 9(C)-WEST ASIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION

1. SUMMARY: ITEM ON ESTABLISHMENT OF WEST ASIAN REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMISSION INTRODUCED IN ECONOMIC COMMITTEE JULY 18 MORNING SESSION. AMB GHORRA (LEBANON) REINTRODUCED RES. 1497, REV.2 IN STATEMENT WHICH OTHERWISE REVIEWED TWENTY FIVE YEAR HISTORY OF ARAB EFFORTS TO HAVE ECOSOC DEAL WITH MATTER. AMB FACK (NETHERLANDS) IN STRONG STATEMENT URGED GHORRA NOT TO PRESS ITEM TO SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION IN VIEW COMPLICATED LEGAL, POLITICAL PROBLEMS, AND TO AGREE TO ONE-YEAR POSTPONEMENT. GHORRA IN SUBSEQUENT INTERVENTION REPLIED TO FACK THAT HE COULD NOT MAKE DECISION PERSONALLY RE POSTPONEMENT SINCE ARAB LEAGUE HAD DECIDED TO PUSH FOR DECISION NOW. GHORRA FOR HIMSELF SAID THAT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE SHOULD CONTINUE TO DEAL WITH ITEM IN MOST EXPEDITIOUS WAY POSSIBLE. DESPITE OBVIOUS DESIRE GHORRA TO PROCEED WITH DEBATE ASAP, AMB SCOTT, CHAIRMAN OF ECONOMIC COMMITTEE SAID THAT FIRST AVAILABLE TIME FOR CONTINUATION OF DISCUSSION THIS ITEM WAS  
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FRIDAY MORNING, JULY 20. GHORRA AGREED TO THAT

ARRANGEMENT. SEVERAL ADDITIONAL SPEAKERS ARE INSCRIBED FOR FRIDAY SESSION. END SUMMARY.

2. SUBSEQUENT TO BRIEF INTRODUCTION OF ITEM BY ECONOMIC COMITE CHAIRMAN SCOTT, AMB GHORRA (LEBANON) TOOK FLOOR TO INTRODUCE RES. 1497, REV. 2. HE RECALLED HIS PREVIOUS STATEMENTS AT 53RD RESUMED ECOSOC IN NOVEMBER 1972 AND LAST WEEK'S STATEMENT ON ITEM IN 55TH PLENARY, QUOTING VERBATIM AT LENGTH FROM BOTH INTERVENTIONS. HE WENT ON TO OUTLINE CASE ESTABLISHMENT OF WEST ASIAN REC. ESSENTIAL POINTS IN SOMEWHAT RAMBLING PRESENTATION WERE THAT 1) TWELVE ARAB STATES, BEING DEPRIVED OF REC ARE UNDER-PRIVILEGED IN THEIR ASSOCIATION WITH UN; 2) UNESOB ALTHOUGH HELPFUL, PROVIDES LESS SERVICES TO MEMBER COUNTRIES THAT WOULD REC; 3) WEST ASIAN REC HAVING POLICY MAKING POWERS WOULD PUT MEMBER STATES IN BETTER POSITION AS REGARDS UNDP, AND UN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AND OTHER MULTILATERAL AGENCIES, SUCH AS REGIONAL BANKS; 4) REC WOULD BE VIVID EXPRESSION UN INTEREST IN AREA AND PROVIDE EFFECTIVE ORGAN FOR MEMBER COUNTRIES IN THEIR SINCERE ATTEMPTS TO PARTICIPATE FULLY AND EFFECTIVELY IN UN PROGRAMS, SUCH AS IDS.

3. GHORRA REITERATED SEVERAL TIMES THAT THE TIME HAD COME, AFTER TWENTY SEVEN YEARS OF DELAY BASED ON POLITICAL UNCERTAINTIES AND PROBLEMS OF AREA, FOR ACTION TO ESTABLISH REC FOR TWELVE ARAB NATIONS. ON THAT THEME, GHORRA SAID THAT POLITICAL ROLE OF UN IN ME HAS BEEN UNHAPPY, INEFFECTIVE. HE SAID TRAUMATIC EXPERIENCES OF AREA WOULD HAVE BEEN LESS FRUSTRATING IF UN HAD BEEN MORE INVOLVED IN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES IN REGION. SAYING THAT ECOSOC LIKE SC HAD SHIED AWAY FROM DEVELOPING REAL SOLUTIONS FOR PEACE IN AREA, HE EXPRESSED BELIEF THE UN PRESENCE IN AREA MUST BE MADE MORE TANGIBLE, AT LEAST IN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AREAS.

4. TURNING TO THE DRAFT RESOLUTION, GHORRA NOTED THAT WITH EXPECEPTION OF OP. PARA. 1(B) IT WAS SIMILAR TO OTHER RESES. FOR OTHER RECS. HE NOTED THAT SOME DELS HAD DIFFICULTY WITH PARA. 1(B), BUT SAID THAT POLITICAL UNCLASSIFIED

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REALITIES COULD NOT BE OVERLOOKED AND THAT COUNCIL MUST ACT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THESE REALITIES AS OF THIS TIME. HE SAID THOSE WHO COUNSEL FURTHER POSTPONEMENT UNTIL POLITICAL SITUATION RESOLVED ARE ASKING THAT THE WEST ASIAN REC BE DEFERRED INDEFINITELY.

5. HE NOTED THAT OTHER DELS HAD RAISED QUESTION OF POSSIBLE EFFECTS OF THIS ITEM ON PENDING SC DISCUSSION. TO

THOSE DELS HE SAID, LET US HOPE SC WILL MAKE PROGRESS  
ON POLITICAL FRONT, BUT NOT LET THAT EXPRESSION OF HOPE  
RESTRAIN US FROM TAKING POSITIVE ACTION ON THE ECONOMIC  
FRONT. HE SAID THAT THE COUNCIL HAS ALL LATITUDE UNDER  
OP. PARA. 1(B) TO REVIEW THE SITUATION IN THE LIGHT OF  
FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS. HE DESCRIBED THE RES AS A "WINDOW  
ON THE FUTURE" AND THAT ARAB COUNTRIES WOULD BE DELIGHTED  
TO HAVE OTHER "FRIENDLY COUNTRIES SITUATED NEAR OR FAR  
FROM THE REGION" IN THE WEST ASIA REC. HE SAID SPECIFICALLY  
THAT THE DOOR TO THE REC WOULD BE OPEN TO IRAN,  
TURKEY AND CYPRUS.

6. HE APPEALED TO THE COMMITTEE TO LOOK AT THE PROPOSAL  
"REALISTICALLY" AND NOT TO BECOME INVOLVED IN LEGAL  
ARGUMENTS WHICH WOULD INVOLVE COUNCIL IN ENDLESS DEBATE.

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INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 RSC-01

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7. AMB FACK (NETHERLANDS) LIKE GHORRA RECALLED  
HISTORY OF THE ISSUE SINCE 1947. HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT  
SINCE THAT DATE, ECOSOC HAD WISELY DECIDED TO PUT OFF THE  
ITEM DUE TO THE ECONOMIC, LEGAL AND POLITICAL PROBLEMS WHICH  
ARE INEXTRICABLY INVOLVED. HE SAID THAT POLITICAL  
CIRCUMSTANCES AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS THAT EXISTED IN

1940S AND 1950S HAVE NOT CHANGED TO THE POINT THAT  
ALLOWS MOST DELS TO APPROACH THIS ISSUE WITH ANYTHING  
BUT RELUCTANCE. HE SAID GON THOUGHT DEBATE ON ISSUE NOW  
MIGHT AGGREGATE ME SITUATION AND ADVERSELY AFFECT  
MEASURES BEING TAKEN ELSEWHERE. HE ADDED THAT  
SENSITIVE STAGE OF SC DISCUSSIONS AND DELICATE STATE  
OF THE REGION HAD PROMPTED GON TO APPROACH THE ISSUE  
FROM A PROCEDURAL ANGLE, NOT ON ITS LEGAL MERITS. HE  
PLEADED WITH GHORRA NOT TO INSIST ON DEBATE OR VOTE  
ON THE SUBSTANTIVE MERITS OF THE RESOLUTION, AND REQUESTED  
THAT THE SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION BE POSTPONE FOR ONE YEAR.

8. HE SAID SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION OF ITEM WOULD  
EMBROIL ECONOMIC COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL IN ENDLESS  
POLITICAL AND LEGAL DEBATE AND THAT THIS WOULD ONLY  
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ADD TO BURDEN OF TOO LENGTHY 55TH ECOSOC AGENDA. FINALLY  
HE RECALLED WORDS OF AMB MALIKW WHO TOOK VIEW IN 1947 THAT THIS  
ISSUE SHOULD BE DEFERRED UNTIL MORE AUSPICIOUS TIME, AND  
REITERATED HIS PLEA TO GHORRA FOR ONE-YEAR'S POSTPONEMENT.

9. EGYPTIAN REP SAID IT WOULD BE "CONTROVERSIAL"  
IF ECOSOC DID NOT ESTABLISH WEST ASIAN REC SINCE  
A) IT WOULD RUN COUNTER TO ECOSOC'S REQUESTS TO RECS  
TO ASSIST IN IMPLEMENTATION OF IDS; B) CONVERSION OF  
UNESOB TO REC IS PART OF ECOSOC REFORM THRUST; C) A  
MAJORITY OF COUNTRIES IN REGIONAL GROUP MEETINGS HAD  
EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE WEST  
ASIAN REC. SHE DENIED THAT ECOSOC DISCUSSION OF THE  
ITEM WOULD AFFECT OR AGGREGATE THE ME SITUATION OR  
DELAY THE ECOSOC SESSION.

10. THE REP OF YEMEN POINTED OUT THAT SEVEN NEW  
COUNTRIES HAD COME INTO BEING IN THE REGION SINCE  
THE IDEA OF AN REC WAS FIRST DISCUSSED IN 1947.  
HE ECHOED GHORRA'S SENTIMENTS THAT WITHOUT AN REC  
THE ME WAS AN "UNDER PRIVILEGED AREA" IN UN ACTIVITIES  
IN THAT IT IS DEPRIVED OF NORMAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL  
FACILITIES OF THE UN. THE TUNISIAN REP. STRONGLY  
SUPPORTED THE LEBANESE RES AND SAID THAT ESTABLISHMENT  
OF WEST ASIAN REC IN INTEREST OF ARABS AND  
THE ENTIRE WORLD SINCE THE AREA IS DEEPLY INVOLVED IN  
QUESTIONES OF FINANCE, ENERGY ETC. HE SAID THAT  
POSTPONEMENT OF ITEM WOULD RUN COUNTER TO THE ECONOMIC  
AND SOCIAL FOCUS OF ECOSOC.

11. CHAIRMAN SCOTT, NOTING THAT THE SESSION WAS NEARLY  
AT AN END, SAID THAT THE SEVERAL SPEAKERS STILL  
INSCRIBED TO MAKE STATEMENTS AND SUBGESTED THAT

RESUMPTION OF THE DEBATE WOULD BE SCHEDULED AT A CONVENIENT TIME EARLY NEXT WEEK. GHORRA INTERVENED TO REQUEST THAT THE DEBATE PROCEED WITHOUT BREAK UNTIL COMPLETED.

12. GHORRA SAID THAT HE WISHED TO RESPOND TO AMB FACK, BUT THAT HE COULD NOT MAKE DECISION ON POSTPONEMENT PERSONALLY SINCE THE DECISION TO PURSUE UNCLASSIFIED

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THE ITEM HAD BEEN MADE BY THE ARAB LEAGUE. HE EXPRESSED OPINION HOWEVER THAT CONTINUED DEBATE OF ITEM WOULD NOT AGGREGATE ME SITUATION, WHICH HAD BEEN SENSITIVE FOR 25 YEARS. HE SAID THAT HE TOO WISHED TO AVOID ENDLESS DEBATE ON LEGAL AND POLITICAL ASPECTS OF PROBLEM AND ASKED THE COMMITTEE PROCEED WITH DEBATE ON ECONOMIC MERITS OF THE ISSUE.

13. AMB SCOTT SAID THAT FIRST POSSIBLE TIME TO CONTINUE DEBATE WOULD BE FRIDAY MORNING, JULY 20. GHORRA AGREED TO THAT TIMING. BASSIN

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## Message Attributes

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